

Application No. 10/087,592

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1) deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2) added matter is shown by underlining.

Please cancel claims 3-7.

Please add new claims 12-15 as follows:

12. (New) A shift device for operating a vehicular automatic transmission, comprising:
a case; and

a substantially dome-shaped knob, the knob being tiltable and selectively located at selected positions that correspond engage states of the transmission, wherein a part of the knob protrudes from the case, wherein the knob has a central hole located at a center thereof that corresponds a palm of a driver and a plurality of holes located around the central holes that correspond fingers of the driver.

13. (New) The shift device according to claim 12, further comprising:

a stopper selectively located at a lock position where the tilt of the knob is locked and an unlock position where the lock of the knob is released;

a shaft tiltably supported by the case for holding the knob at the selected position;

a manipulation body movably supported by the shaft, wherein, in response to the movement of the shaft, the manipulation body is located at a protruded position where the manipulation body protrudes on the surface of the knob through the central hole, wherein the manipulation body has a projection that selectively engages and disengages with the stopper; and

a spring that urges the manipulation body toward the protruded position;

wherein, when the manipulation body at the protruded position is pressed against the force of the spring while the stopper releases the knob from locking, the projection separates

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from the stopper to allow the tilt of the manipulation body, knob and the shaft, and when the manipulation body is released from pressing, the manipulation body engages the stopper.

14. (New) The shift device according to claim 13, wherein a switching signal of the automatic transmission is outputted by a two-step operation including operation of the manipulation body and operation of the knob.

15. (New) The shift device of claim 13, further comprising a detection device for detecting the selected state of shift position by the knob, wherein the detection device detects the selected state of the shift position when the manipulation body is operated.